

House Insurance Committee Meeting
October 4, 2011, 9:00AM
Agenda: HB4936

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My name is Matthew Kottman I reside in Commerce Township, Michigan. I am the husband of a catastrophically injured 34-year-old operating room nurse, wife and mother. My wife was rendered a total quadriplegic due to a Spinal Cord Injury sustained from an auto accident in June of 2004.

Please consider these points with regard to proposed Bill HB4936:

- Placing personal injury protection insurance coverage (PIP) limits proposed in this bill will prevent lifetime **attendant care** coverage to catastrophically injured auto accident victims. The degree of attendant care needed for the health and safety of auto injury victims cannot be obtained through benefits offered through health insurance, Medicare or its supplemental insurance policies once PIP benefits limits are exhausted.
- Attendant care will need to be performed by a parent or spouse, who if employed full time, will have no choice but to resign in order to provide care needed for the injured. This means more Michigan residents not working. In addition, jobs eliminated in Michigan's health care industry due to PIP coverage limits, will ultimately result in a lower GDP for Michigan, less Michigan income-tax revenues from residents, and less income-tax revenues for counties.
- Fee schedules limiting medical care and rehabilitative services for future and existing beneficiaries of the MCAA will result in increased time to recovery, increased illness and increased emergency room visits to cover the additional risks levied upon Michigan residents injured in an auto accident. Maximum PIP coverage limits will be attained quicker with each emergency room visit.
- A auto insurance policy based on HB4936 providing inclusive/exclusive benefits with exploratory judicial hearings and jury trials to determine what medical items the auto insurer is responsible for, will foster an environment of unpaid medical bills and lawsuits between the insured's auto insurance, health insurance, or other insurance providers.

In summary I oppose changes proposed in HB4936 limiting PIP coverage, introducing fee schedules, and implementing laws that would increase litigation within the state of Michigan. The proposed bill changes would reduce auto accident victims to their disability, a problem that won't just go away. This bill proposal will likely lead to a larger burden on our Medicare system while at the same time decreasing Michigan's tax revenue by eliminating jobs and lowering our GDP in the state of Michigan. These adverse consequences for the state of Michigan and its residents are not worth the effort to reduce only a portion of an auto insurance premium for which we pay no more than a small fraction of the total premium. Please do not enact Bill HB4936.